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ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

Re PROMOTION from GRADE VIII and ADMISSION to GRADE IX

CURRICULUM : 2

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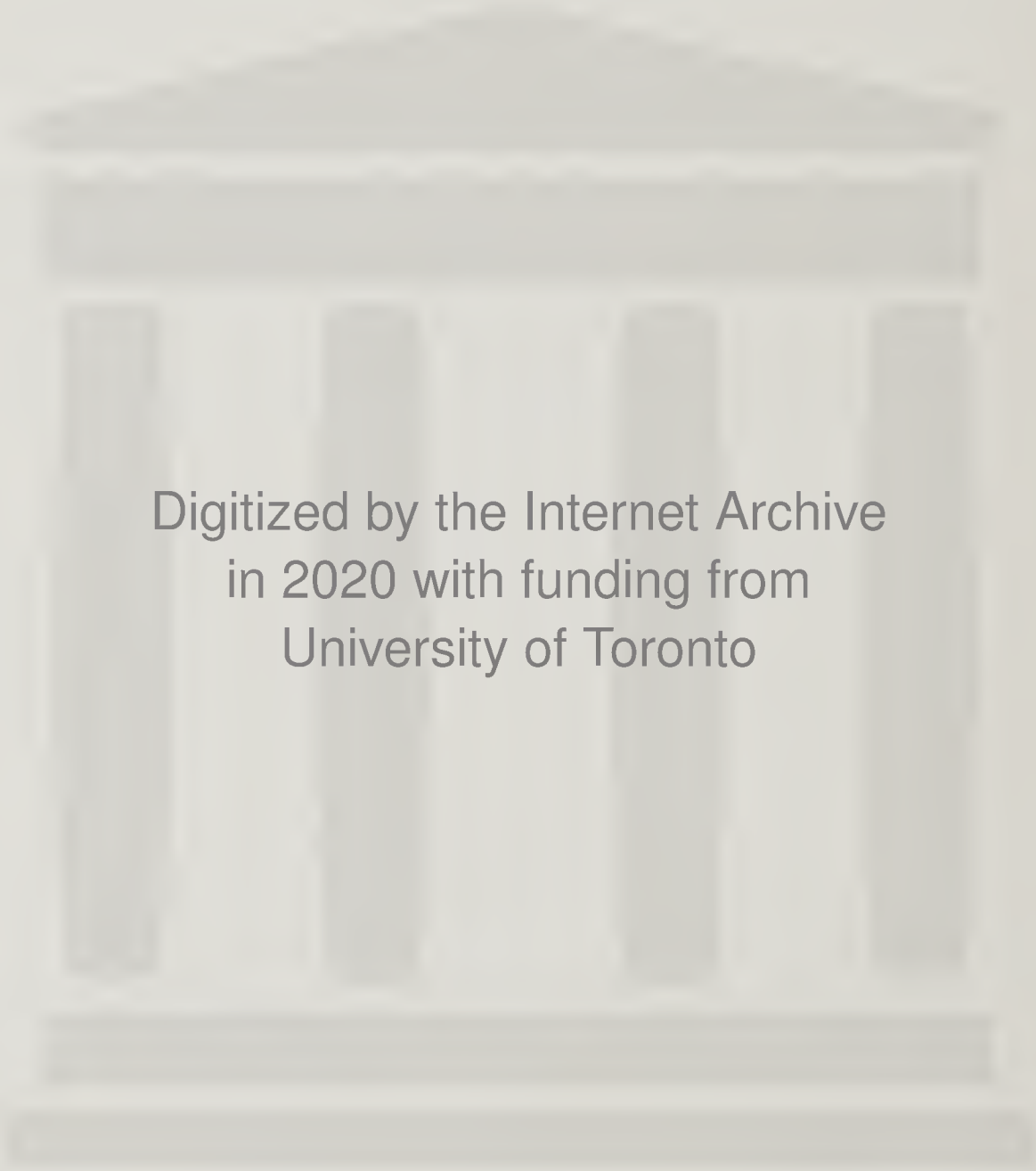
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Promotion From Grade VIII
and
Admission to Grade IX

The immediate discontinuance of the High School Entrance Examination was announced in *Memorandum re Revision of Curriculum (Curriculum 1)* dated December 10, 1949, and an announcement regarding the method of promoting pupils from Grade VIII in June, 1950, was promised.
The procedure for promoting pupils of Grade VIII of the public and separate schools to Grade IX and the admission of pupils to Grade IX is outlined in the following statement.

PROMOTION FROM GRADE VIII

1. Promotions of pupils of a public or separate school will be made by the principal of that school subject to revision by the inspector. This is in accordance with Section 9 (2) (b) of the General Regulations for Public and Separate Schools (Ontario Regulations 95/45 as amended by O.Reg 112/49), which reads as follows:

> 9.—(2) Subject to revision by the inspector, the principal shall,—
> (b) promote pupils from one grade to another.

2. The prime consideration which should govern the principal in recommending the promotion of a pupil is whether the best interests of the pupil will be served by his promotion. The principal must decide in the light of his knowledge of the pupil whether it will be better for him to proceed to Grade IX or to remain in Grade VIII.

3. Each principal will prepare a list of promoted pupils to be submitted through the inspector to the secondary school principal. It is desirable that this list should indicate the teachers' estimate of each pupil's ability in the various school subjects of Grade VIII and provide any pertinent information regarding the pupil which is in the possession of the elementary school principal and would be of use to the teachers of Grade IX in advising the pupil as to the programme he should follow.

4. The promotion list submitted to the inspector by the principal of the elementary school should be accompanied by a list of the pupils not promoted. The inspector should scrutinize carefully all cases of non-promoted pupils to assure himself that the best interests of these pupils will be served by remaining in Grade VIII, and after consultation with the principal, the promotion list should be revised, if necessary.

5. The secondary school principal should arrange to provide as much information as possible for the teachers of Grade VIII regarding the courses and options which his school is prepared to offer. This information should be made available to the pupils and their parents to assist them in choosing the most suitable available programme.

6. Elementary school inspectors and secondary school principals concerned should consult regarding the most convenient method of providing the principal of the secondary school with the required information regarding pupils in his high school district who have been promoted to Grade IX.

7. Each pupil who is promoted from Grade VIII to Grade IX shall be given by his principal a statement or a completed report card showing clearly that the pupil has been promoted. Pupils should be directed to retain this statement for presentation to the principal of the Grade IX which they will enter.

8. No report will be required by the Department of Education of pupils who are promoted from Grade VIII to Grade IX but it is considered important that accurate records of promotions be retained in each school for future reference. The use of Exam. Forms 14 and 14a "Principal's Report on Standing of Candidates for High School Entrance Examination" is discontinued.

ADMISSION TO GRADE IX

1. (a) A pupil who has been promoted from Grade VIII to Grade IX in the manner outlined above shall be admitted to Grade IX.

   (b) Pupils of private schools, pupils from outside Ontario, and other special cases, shall be admitted to Grade IX after the principal has satisfied himself that the applicant is competent to undertake the work of that grade.

This is in accordance with Section 17 of The High Schools Amendment Act, 1950.

2. No report of pupils admitted to Grade IX by the secondary school principal will be required by the Department of Education, but record of such admissions should be made in the school.

3. Some school boards have already made arrangements for the reception by the secondary school on the last two school days of June of pupils promoted to Grade IX. These promoted pupils will be conducted to the secondary school by an elementary school teacher. The secondary school principal will arrange for members of his staff to show the pupils the various departments of the school and to explain the work offered in these departments.

4. After he has had time to make an intelligent choice, the pupil should be required to indicate his choice of courses and options offered in a written statement, and this statement should be signed by the pupil's parent.

5. It may be expected that in some cases pupils may be promoted prematurely. The principal of the secondary school and the elementary school inspectors should form a committee to study such cases and to consider what action should be taken to improve the situation for the next year.

6. It may also be expected that some pupils will enter Grade IX for whom the present courses offered in Grade IX will not be suitable. It will be the duty of the principal and staff of the secondary school to arrange programmes that will meet the needs of these pupils.

7. In order that a unified and continuous programme may be provided in The Intermediate Division it would seem advisable that curriculum committees consisting of teachers of Grades VII, VIII, IX, and X should be established. Such

committees have already been organized on an experimental basis in a number of centres. A further statement regarding the establishment of curriculum committees will be issued at a later date.

Dana Porter

Minister of Education

Toronto, March 30, 1950.